

The campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

March 2004

# DN EXTRA...

HUNTING FOR A JOB? - see inside



## No credit

Banks fail online test

## Benefits trap

Let us work, say day centre users



5 pages of job opportunities and online at [www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk)



## DN EXTRA...

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## Day centre work let-down

People with learning difficulties want to work longer hours but fear losing their benefits, according to a new government-funded report\*.

The report on how day centres address the work needs of learning disabled people also found that the centres have weak links with mainstream employment services.

The research by the Learning Disability Employment Research Partnership was based on interviews with people who attend day centres, carers, and day centre and employment staff in nine

local authorities across England.

David Congdon, Mencap's head of external relations, said: "The research found what everybody knew – that even those people with learning disabilities who do work, work very few hours, for very little money."

As few as one in ten people with learning difficulties are in work, and most of them work only a "very limited" number of hours a week, said Mr Congdon.

Those on income support (IS) can only earn £20 a week before their IS and linked benefits

start to be deducted.

Mr Congdon said: "Most people say that if it could be closer to £36 a week... that would be a big step forward."

He also said local authorities had a "very real responsibility" to "deal sensibly and responsibly with day centre modernisation" and provide "imaginative and creative proposals" for meaningful activities outside work.

\**Working Lives: the role of day centres in supporting people with learning disabilities into employment*, [www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/index.asp](http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/index.asp)



Pass port: actor Richard Wilson (centre) took a trip down the Thames last month to help remind holders of Freedom Passes, which entitle disabled and older Londoners to free public transport, to renew them before 31 March. Pictured are (from left) Hammersmith and Fulham residents Josh Braithwaite and Pat Oldman and (right) borough councillor Reg McLaughlin, who is also chief executive of Greater London Action on Disability. [www.freedompass.org](http://www.freedompass.org)

## Summer jobs offer

Disabled students could spend this summer working for the Civil Service, thanks to a government work experience scheme.

It is offering placements to 75 disabled undergraduates and graduates who have or expect a 2:2 degree or above.

The government hopes the scheme will help rid the Civil Service of discriminatory attitudes and practices.

Tim McDonnel, who worked for the Home Office last summer and is now a policy adviser for the Department for

Constitutional Affairs, said: "My placement gave me real confidence and opened my eyes to the opportunities available to me in the Civil Service."

"I was required to carry out my own research, produce summaries with my own thoughts and solutions, comment and contribute to meetings to provide fresh input and ideas."

The closing date for applications is 12 March. For details contact Jason Scoble on 020 7277 0283 or email: [Jason.scoble@employmentopportunities.org.uk](mailto:Jason.scoble@employmentopportunities.org.uk)

**Front cover:** Students from a school for deaf children near Manchester were turned away by two restaurants on a night out, because one of their carers has an assistance dog. Staff and care workers had taken a 20-strong group of students from the Royal Schools for the Deaf to a Stockport restaurant for a night out in February. Two restaurants turned them away because one of the care workers, June Battye, was accompanied by her hearing dog, Gremlin, before staff at Chinese restaurant Ocean City, in Handforth, gave them a warm welcome. Miss Battye said: "We were astonished to be turned away by two restaurants and had almost given up hope of having a meal out with the students, but the staff at the Ocean City were wonderful."

\*Read April's *DN* for our 16-page access supplement, telling you all you need to know about the new duties to be introduced under the Disability Discrimination Act in October, which should help to stop businesses discriminating against disabled people.



## Banks fail web test

Only one of the top nine online banks in the UK is accessible to disabled people, according to research by computing charity AbilityNet.

AbilityNet surveyed bank websites and found that NatWest's was the only site accessible for users with a vision impairment, dyslexia and those who can't use a mouse. It was found to meet a "basic level of accessibility".

Barclays, Egg, first direct, Intelligent Finance, LloydsTSB and Smile's websites were considered to be "inaccessible" to disabled people.

Cahoot, Halifax and HSBC, whose sites were the worst of the nine, were "very inaccessible".

The main problems were that websites used pictures to link to other pages but did not always have labels describing the images, making

the picture and link invisible to blind and text browser users.

Images of text were also used, which prevents text size from being increased or background colour changed.

AbilityNet's web consultancy manager Robin Christopherson, who is blind, said: "Imagine trying to drive to your destination where exits at each junction are left blank."

Only Cahoot, LloydsTSB and Smile responded to AbilityNet's plea to make a public commitment to accessibility.

LloydsTSB and Smile said they were working to improve website accessibility and Cahoot is launching a more accessible site next month.

[www.abilitynet.co.uk](http://www.abilitynet.co.uk) or call AbilityNet's freephone helpline on 0800 269545.

## Shaw scales the heights

Disabled explorer Glenn Shaw has spoken of how he fulfilled his dream to climb to base camp of Mount Everest.

For the 7km trek from a Tibetan monastery to base camp, he had to battle through snowdrifts and gale-force winds at an altitude of more than 17,000 feet.

Mr Shaw, who has brittle bones, spent five nights at base camp with his expedition team last October and visited the memorial cairn for famed Everest explorers George Mallory and Andrew Irvine.

The expedition had originally planned to arrive in Tibet last May (DNE May 2003), but was delayed by the outbreak of the Sars virus.

Mr Shaw, who used a wheelchair built to his own specifications, told DN: "It was graft,



Glenn Shaw on Everest

absolute graft. About 85 per cent of it I did on my own, with people standing by to give a shove when required."

The expedition raised £12,000 for The Outward Bound Trust. *\*[www.glennshaw.co.uk](http://www.glennshaw.co.uk)*

# babel

## Are you passionate about buildings?

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### Freelance Access Consultants

to work with our in-house team on projects including access audits, design appraisals and strategic consultancy

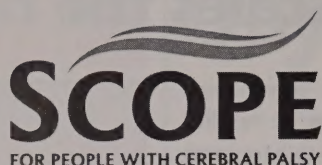
### Apprentice Access Auditor

to join our apprenticeship scheme for work-based learning and a curriculum of self-study

For more information please send your CV to Georgie Broke-Smith (Office Manager) babel Ltd, 3 Devonshire Mews, Chiswick, London W4 2HA

T: 020-8400-1440 E: [el@babel.me.uk](mailto:el@babel.me.uk)





Scope is a national disability charity whose focus is people with cerebral palsy.

Our aim is that disabled people achieve equality.

Use your skills to make a difference

## Donor Care Administrator £16,581 to £18,218 incl. of ILW

An exciting opportunity has arisen for someone with database experience. We require a highly motivated individual with excellent communication skills to join our team of administrators. Working within our Direct Marketing & Legacies Team you will be dealing with queries from our supporters and working extensively on our supporter database (Raiser's Edge) producing reports, updating records and maintaining committed giving processes. You will have experience of providing excellent customer care, good computer & database skills and the ability to prioritise a demanding workload. In return you can look forward to working in a busy and dynamic customer care & response handling environment.

For an application pack or chat about the above post, please contact (quoting reference DCA) Sophie Walshaw, Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW. Telephone: **020 7619 7306**  
Email: [sophie.walshaw@scope.org.uk](mailto:sophie.walshaw@scope.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: **26th March**. Interviews: 2nd April.

We are committed to equal opportunities and we encourage applications from disabled people.

Find out more about us at [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)

Registered charity no 208231.

## Transport for London



### Disability Equality at TfL – are you up to the challenge?

#### Disability and Age Adviser

**c£30,000 (6month Fixed term contract)**

We are looking for someone to work with us for a minimum of six months covering a period of maternity leave to take forward the workforce disability agenda.

You will contribute to the development and implementation of strategy, policy and action plans for the business to ensure the equality of opportunity for disabled staff within our employment. Your skills and experience in equality issues and together with an understanding of legislation and the public transport industry, are just what we want.

We will provide an exciting challenge in the heart of London working across all the transport modes. With a great team environment and lots of support, this is a great stepping stone for someone with strong interpersonal, communication, negotiation and listening skills.

If this sounds like you, please telephone 0207 027 8608 or e-mail on [hrcorporate@TfL.gov.uk](mailto:hrcorporate@TfL.gov.uk) for an application pack quoting reference TfL 203/DN.

**Application forms should be returned to Stella Frempong, 4th Floor North, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD. Closing date 31st March 2004.**

Transport for London values the diversity, which exists in our city and our aspiration is to reflect this diversity in our workforce.

**MAYOR OF LONDON**



## DEADLINES

**Disability Now April 2004, published 27 March Classified deadlines: booking 12 March copy 16 March**

**DN Extra April 2004, published 10 April Classified deadlines: booking 31 March, copy 2 April**

**For more information contact Patrick Durham Matthews Tel: 020 7619 7320, Fax: 020 7619 7331**

**email [patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk](mailto:patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk)**



# avenues

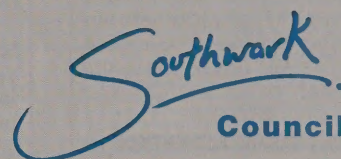
# not

# obstacles

**living  
learning  
sharing  
working**

When you have a disability, a lot of things in the workplace can get in your way – not just physical obstacles, but prejudice, ignorance and indifference. Here at Southwark, we're determined to get rid of all these problems, and to make sure that our environment's easily accessible to everyone.

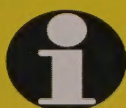
To see all of our current vacancies please visit [www.jobsatsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.jobsatsouthwark.co.uk) where you can also register your details, and we'll email you jobs that match your skills, as and when they arise.



[www.jobsatsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.jobsatsouthwark.co.uk)



valuing people, promoting opportunity



**Do you have a physical disability or sensory impairment?**

**Do you live in the London Borough of Bromley or receive care or support from Bromley Social Services or Health?**



**Do you know where to look for information and advice about health and care needs?**

And if you find the information, is it in the format that best suits you?

Why not have your say about how information is produced and distributed to people with physical and sensory impairments in Bromley in the future, by filling out a questionnaire on behalf of the PDSI Forum and Partnership Group.

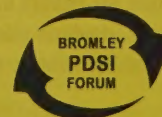
To obtain a copy of this simple questionnaire, please contact Joanna Frizelle: Telephone 020 8325 3449 or email [joanna@tdmweb.com](mailto:joanna@tdmweb.com)  
The information you provide is completely confidential.

This questionnaire is totally independent of a questionnaire you may have heard about or received from Social Services on behalf of the Dept of Health.

*The PDSI Forum aims to voice the views of people with physical disabilities and sensory impairments in Bromley. If you would like to join, please contact the Secretary on 01689 870505 or email [pdsiforum@aol.com](mailto:pdsiforum@aol.com)*



**Help us make information more effective!**









# BBC WHAT NOT TO WEAR

Are you on the verge of a mid-life crisis?  
Has your baby taken over your life?  
Is your glamorous teenage daughter making you feel like a frump?  
Divorced 2 years and wanting to start life again?  
Menopausal?  
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- a reinvented What Not To Wear wants to hear from you.

Call 0208 752 6685 or e-mail [lifestyle@bbc.co.uk](mailto:lifestyle@bbc.co.uk) NOW!

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For further details and the opportunity to view the property contact: 020-7553-6420,  
e-mail [sales@shgroup.org.uk](mailto:sales@shgroup.org.uk)  
or visit our website [www.shho.org.uk](http://www.shho.org.uk)

### UK FOCUS FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

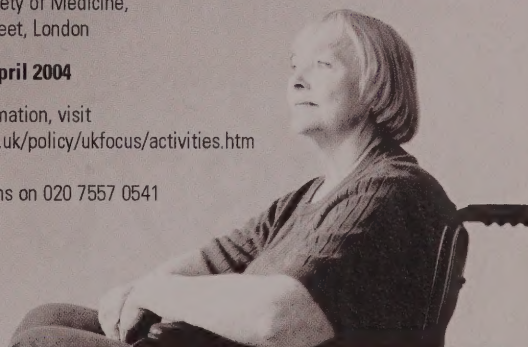
## TECHNOLOGY FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

### Engineering for a Caring Society

A conference to be held at  
The Royal Society of Medicine,  
1 Wimpole Street, London

**Monday 26 April 2004**

For more information, visit  
[www.raeng.co.uk/policy/ukfocus/activities.htm](http://www.raeng.co.uk/policy/ukfocus/activities.htm)  
or contact  
Communications on 020 7557 0541



**FORD GALAXY 2.3**, auto, R reg, low mileage (19k miles). Push/pull hand controls and steering knob. Wide folding ramps, captain's seat for driver and front passenger, 5 detachable rear seats. MOT expires Oct, only one owner. Air con and e/windows. £7,700 ono. Tel: 01692 650901 (Norfolk).

**FORD GALAXY 2.0** GLX Cuirass Blue, R reg, 52k miles, fsh. MOT/tax Sept 04. Aircon, pas, incl Brotherwoods conversion including ramp. Only 2 owners, excellent condition, £8995 ono. Tel 01494 895160 (day) 526536 (eve) (High Wycombe).

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